

REMARKS

Claims 3 through 10 remain in the patent application. Claim 10 is in independent form. All of the claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over a United States patent application having publication number US2002/0171954 ("Bonardi et al. reference") in view of United States Patents 6,227,689, 6,347,880, 6,582,109 or 5,669,699. Applicant respectfully traverses each of these rejections.

The Bonardi et al. reference discloses a mirror subassembly 200 (best seen in Figure 5, which is reproduced below with emphasis added by the Applicant). The mirror subassembly may be shown to have a front transparent element 11, a rear transparent element 14, and a seal 16 extending around the periphery of the transparent elements 11, 14 to retain the electrochromic elements housed therebetween. Edges to each of these elements (highlighted in green and identified as the surfaces that the new or additional lead lines for the glass 11, 14 and the seal 16 are drawn to – and not the new or additional flap or bezel lead lines) are never discussed.

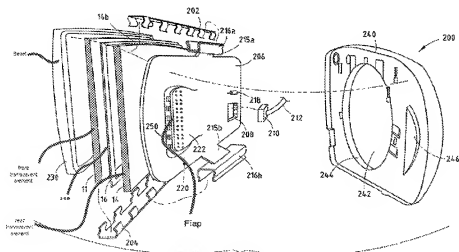


Fig. 5

A flap 222 is cut out from a portion of the flexible circuit board 206 and has a plurality of LEDs 250 mounted thereto. The flap 222 defines a periphery that is fully encompassed by the flexible circuit board 206. The LEDs 250 are positioned to shine **through** the mirror glass.

All of the other references used in these rejections all show light assemblies that are directed downwardly and out through the housing. And most notably, all of the light assemblies from each of these references are disclosed in locations behind the mirror glass (Figure 2 of United States Patent 6,227,689, Figure 1 of United States Patent 6,347,880, Figure 2 of United States Patent 6,582,109 and Figure 8 of United States Patent 5,669,699).

Claim 10, as amended to clarify the invention, claims a mirror glass with a heating foil disposed therebehind. The heating element includes tabs 24 that project out and away from said back side, and **wrap** around the mirror glass edge 14. The tabs 24 extend through the plane defined by the front side of the mirror glass 11. The heating foil receives at least one heating element and at least one lighting source 60, which is disposed on one of the tabs 24. The lighting source 60 extends beyond the mirror glass edge 14 and across the plane defined by the front side 12.

Nowhere in any of the cited references is there shown a tab that wraps around an edge of the glass to position a light source in front of the glass. Every single one of the cited references discloses a light source that is forward (with respect to the orientation of how the mirror assembly is mounted to the motor vehicle) of the mirror glass. The flap 222 of the Bonardi et al. reference does not even come close to the edges of the mirror elements 11, 14 as disclosed therein. In fact, there would be no need for the flap 222 to have such a configuration because the light shines through the mirror glass.

In contradistinction, claim 10 has been amended to clarify the invention that has a light source that is behind the mirror glass (with respect to orientation of how the mirror assembly is mounted to the motor vehicle) and is mounted to a heating foil which is in front of the mirror

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glass via a tab that wraps around the edge of the mirror glass. None of the references cited by the Examiner disclose such a combination. Further, each of the references teaches away from the invention because each of the references discloses a light source in front of the glass of the mirror. Therefore, claim 10 and all claims depending therefrom overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

It is respectfully submitted that this patent application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment or patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee associated with this Communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0852.

Respectfully submitted,

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